AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An optical device for forming an image of fingerprints, comprising:

an optical plate with: a first main face constituting a face for affixing a finger of which an image of the fingerprints is to be obtained, a first lateral face arranged as a convergent mirror, and a second lateral face, opposite the first lateral face and forming ~~the~~ an exit face of the optical plate which defines an angle greater than 90° with said first main face,

at least one light source for illuminating said first main face through the optical plate,

a focusing objective located opposite said exit face, said focusing objective having an object focal point situated substantially in a focal plane of ~~the~~ said convergent mirror, and

a diaphragm provided with an aperture, said diaphragm being interposed between said exit face and said focusing objective and situated substantially in the vicinity to said focusing objective, wherein a plane defined by said first main face defines an angle between 2° and 25° with a plane perpendicular to said exit face and intersects said diaphragm under and ~~close~~ in the vicinity to said aperture thereof, whereby the angle of incidence of the light rays on said first main face, inside the optical plate, is increased and ~~a major part of the stray light transmitted from said exit face is intercepted~~ the stray light transmitted from said exit face is substantially intercepted by said diaphragm under said aperture thereof, while the thickness of the optical plate can be reduced.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) The optical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said angle is around 10°.

6. (Currently Amended) The optical device as claimed in claim 1 said optical plate having third and fourth lateral faces extending respectively between said first and second lateral faces and mutually opposed, wherein said third and fourth lateral faces are inclined

towards one another from the first lateral face and wherein at least one light source is facing at least one of the third and fourth lateral faces.

7. (Currently Amended) The optical device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said optical plate and said focusing objective are grouped as one single piece having a slot defined by said exit face of said optical plate and said entrance face of said focusing objective, said slot being shaped so as to receive said diaphragm.

8. (Currently Amended) The optical device as claimed in claim 1 wherein a mirror is located downstream of said focusing objective and is arranged so as to reflect the luminous radiation substantially perpendicularly to said optical plate.